

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Yutaka TANAKA et al. ) : Prior Examiner: H. Nguyen  
Application No.: Divisional of Appln. No. 09/897,930, )  
filed July 5, 2001 :  
Filed: April 15, 2004 )  
For: PROCESSING APPARATUS FOR :  
PROCESSING SAMPLE IN PREDETERMINED ) April 15, 2004  
ATMOSPHERE :  
)

**Mail Stop Patent Application**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows: